

March 12, 1963

Dr. T. M. Sonneborn
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220 Jordan Hall
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Bloomington, Indiana

Dear Tracy:

I have neither any particular motive nor intent to quarrel with your conclusions about the organization of your symposium, and I could think of many reasons why it would be inappropriate to include my article in the proceedings. But I am puzzled, even startled, by the particular reason that was offered -- namely, that my paper had little to do with the theme of your symposium "The Control of Human Heredity and Evolution". Just to the extent that anybody does think this, I would propose that it was really rather important that the views expressed in my article be embodied in such a symposium. However, I can hardly reproach you for not giving me an opportunity to participate; quite the contrary; so perhaps I should put this down to some conscious or unconscious strategy on your part to provoke me into taking a more immediate part. I appreciate your friendly remarks, but I would have to point out that I would have brought to the symposium just the conclusions expressed in my paper, and if these are misdirected with respect to your theme, perhaps they will not be missed after all. Perhaps there is something else that I have missed here. But leave of all do I want my taste for irony to make a mountain out of a molehill. Circulating my paper to the participants will have accomplished every useful purpose of throwing this viewpoint on the table, and I am happy to have had that opportunity.

Will we never manage to divert you for a brief visit here?

Cordially,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

Sonneborn